

The Research Project (10% of your course grade): This is an empirical project, which will kick off with team assignments at around the time of the first mid-term exam. In the past, there have been two phases to the project: Phase I - Replication and Phase II - Improvement. However, this semester I'm dropping Phase II, and so the Project is now focused solely on replicating an existing published piece of econometric analysis... of your choosing.¹

1. **Team assignments:** The Research Project kicks off with team assignments around the time of the first mid-term exam. I will assign the teams, which will likely have three members each.

- **Kickoff/Team assignments:** Project teams assigned around Mon. October 25th

2. **Topic selection:** Topics should showcase interesting econometric analysis, and need not be restricted to topics in Economics. It's important to get an early start, as empirical research is always slow going!. To help you in that regard, I'll ask teams to email me a one paragraph description of their topic/paper of interest, within two weeks of team assignments. I will compile and circulate those blurbs and we'll discuss them in class at some point.

- **Topic selection:** Due around Mon. Nov 8th, about two weeks after *Team assignments*)

3. **Replication:** Replicate both the summary statistics of interest presented in the paper (to show that you have indeed replicated the construction of the dataset) as well as at least one set of regression results of interest.

Your end-of-semester deliverable will be a *PowerPoint* presentations (or the equivalent), which should be concise and to the point; ***Shorter is always better***. I will say more about the format of the deliverable when teams are assigned.

Your PowerPoint presentation should discuss your data sources in detail and how your dataset was constructed. Credit will reflect in part the level of difficulty.² In some cases you may be able to obtain data from the original authors, which obviously greatly simplifies the replication phase. You can do that if you want, but your grade will suffer mightily (since building datasets is hard work, and copying and pasting is not). If you do work with the authors' data and/or programs, be sure to give them full credit for such. Not doing so is plagiarism.

At the end of the semester teammates will assess their own and each other's performance using the posted *Peer Evaluation* form (see posting to Canvas). Students' grades will reflect both their individual performance as well as the quality of the final team submission.

- **Replication:** Due around Fri., Dec 3rd; the next to last week of classes, and about three class-weeks after *Topic selection*.

Leave plenty of time for Replication. You'll find this far more challenging and time consuming than you could ever imagine. And yes, ***replication means replication!***

Shirkers take notice... I repeat: *Peer evaluation* forms will be distributed at the end of the semester, so that team members can assess each other's performance... as well as their own.

Empirical work is slow going. Be sure to leave yourself enough time to complete the assignment to your satisfaction.

¹ Published here means published in an academic journal (so no unpublished senior theses, web blogs, or the like).

² If you want a sense of *degree of difficulty*, just ask.